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Committee for Programme and Coordination
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Agenda item 7
Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fifty-sixth session

Draft report

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Addendum

Programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017
(*Item 3 (b) (i)*)

Report of the Secretary-General on consolidated changes to the biennial programme plan as reflected in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017

1. At its 6th meeting, on 2 June 2016, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered the report of the Secretary-General on consolidated changes to the biennial programme plan as reflected in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017 (A/71/85).

2. Representatives of the Secretary-General introduced the report and responded to queries raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

3. The improvement to the presentation of the consolidated changes to the biennial programme plan as reflected in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017 was noted.

4. The importance of the linkage between the programmatic and budgetary aspects of the programme, the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation and the Financial Regulation and Rules of the United Nations was recognized. In order to achieve their objectives and to assist Member States in attaining the relevant Sustainable Development Goals, all affected

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programmes would reorient and reprioritize their ongoing efforts, activities and resources accordingly.

5. Clarifications were sought on the correlation between the proposed changes, the plan outline for 2018-2019 and the note by the Secretariat on the review of the biennial programme plan, by sectoral, functional and regional bodies (E/AC.51/2016/CRP.1/Rev.1), and clarification was requested for any other proposals to be presented during 2016.

6. Several delegations expressed the view that a succinct overview of the numerous changes made in respect of recently adopted General Assembly resolutions would be useful to the work of the Committee, and in that regard requested that a line-by-line comparison, using the "track changes" feature, between the approved biennial programme plan for the period 2016-2017 (A/69/6/Rev.1) and the proposed revisions to the 17 programmes concerned be provided as supplementary information. For changes relating to the activities outlined in Assembly resolution 70/1, delegations requested that, where possible, the paragraphs of the resolution that gave rise to the mandates for those activities be specified. In addition, delegations expressed their intention to seek clarification on specific changes made to the biennial programme plan for the period 2016-2017, during discussions on the strategic framework for the period 2018-2019, so as to take advantage of the presence of relevant programme managers and Secretariat officials.

7. A delegation observed some patterns of changes: those that replaced "the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015", which, in the programme plan of 2014-2015, had been "the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals", with "the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development"; those that added a reference to "the 2030 Agenda"; and others that were made on the basis of the decisions of intergovernmental bodies. That delegation stated that it would carefully examine those changes in the first pattern by analysing what had already been built in the Organization for the previous development goals, and it would examine those in the second pattern by scrutinizing the decisions of the intergovernmental bodies to see whether there was any specific reference and mandate corresponding to each of them contained therein.

8. It was underlined that the Secretary-General would report to the General Assembly at the main part of its seventy-first session on additional resources required to support the implementation of the framework of the 2030 Agenda. In that regard, clarification was sought on the sequencing of proposals for resource requirements prior to the completion of the review of the related programme by the Committee.

9. It was noted that the framework of the 2030 Agenda would extend beyond one biennium, given that it covered a period of 15 years. Therefore, the objectives, expected accomplishments, indicators of achievement and outcomes would need to evolve in line with the discussions and decisions of Member States at intergovernmental meetings, such as was the case with the forty-ninth session of the Commission on Population and Development. In that regard, clarification was sought as to how the result of ongoing discussions on mandates would be reflected.

10. With regard to programme 6, Legal affairs, clarification was sought on how paragraph 274 of General Assembly resolution 70/235 could be incorporated into subprogramme 4, Law of the sea and ocean affairs.

11. Regarding programme 7, Economic and social affairs, clarification was sought on the proposed changes to the expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement and whether those changes resulted from the 2030 Agenda, including the Sustainable Development Goals, or from other substantive reasons. With regard to expected accomplishment (c) of subprogramme 6, Development policy and analysis, the view was expressed that the core principles and objectives of the 2030 Agenda remained to be defined and agreed upon.

12. Regarding programme 10, Trade and development, concern was expressed that an amendment to the legislative mandates of subprogramme 6, Operational aspects of trade promotion and export development, for the period 2016-2017, would be required to reflect the ministerial declaration and decisions adopted by the Tenth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, held in Nairobi from 15 to 19 December 2015, which had been reflected in the proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019 (see A/71/6 (Prog. 10), para. 10.25). Clarification was sought as to how those decisions would be incorporated into the programme of work of the International Trade Centre.

13. With regard to programme 16, Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific, appreciation was expressed for the work of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in the area of renewable energy and for its work on energy issues at the regional level. Delegations were supportive of the changes relating to the revision of the conference structure of the Commission, namely, establishing a Committee on Energy as a part of its subsidiary structure establishing a new subprogramme 9, Energy, given that they reflected earlier decisions emanating from an intergovernmental process (see Economic and Social Council resolution 2015/30 and General Assembly resolution 70/248 A, sect. XVI). Clarification was sought, however, regarding the expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement to be rephrased to reflect the framework of the 2030 Agenda, given that access to sources of energy was one of the Sustainable Development Goals. Furthermore, clarification was also sought on the procedural aspects of sequencing the change to the strategic framework and seeking the associated approvals for related resources. In addition, clarification was sought regarding the intergovernmental mandate for the first Asian and Pacific Energy Forum, held in Vladivostok, Russian Federation, from 27 to 30 May 2013.

14. Regarding programme 20, Human rights, the view was expressed that the proposed expected accomplishment and indicators of achievement were so vague and broad that they would encompass all the activities of the United Nations. They appeared more reflective of human rights in general rather than the right to development, as indicated in the title of subprogramme 1, Human rights mainstreaming, right to development, and research and analysis. Additional clarification was requested in that regard.

Conclusions and recommendations

15. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the changes to programme 3, Disarmament, programme 6, Legal affairs, programme 7, Economic and social affairs, programme 8, Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, programme 9, United Nations support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development, programme 10, Trade and development, programme 11,**

Environment, programme 12, Human settlements, programme 13, International drug control, crime and terrorism prevention and criminal justice, programme 14, Gender equality and empowerment of women, programme 15, Economic and social development in Africa, programme 16, Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific, programme 17, Economic development in Europe, programme 18, Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean, programme 19, Economic and social development in Western Asia, programme 20, Human rights, and programme 22, Palestine refugees, as set out in the report of the Secretary-General (A/71/85), subject to the following modifications:

Programme 6
Legal affairs

Subprogramme 4
Law of the sea and ocean affairs

Indicators of achievement

In indicator (b) (ii), delete "; and the implementation of the oceans-related goals in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development".

Strategy

Paragraph 9

Delete "and the implementation of the oceans-related goals in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development".

Programme 7
Economic and Social Affairs

Subprogramme 1
Economic and Social Council support and coordination

Objective of the Organization

At the end of the objective, insert "and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda".

Programme 8
Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States

Subprogramme 1
Least developed countries

Objective of the Organization

Insert "and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda" after "Sustainable Development".

Programme 10
Trade and development

Subprogramme 6
Operational aspects of trade promotion and export development

Strategy

Paragraph 38

Replace "the Doha, Hong Kong and Geneva ministerial declarations adopted by WTO" with "WTO ministerial declarations, including the ministerial declaration and decisions of the Tenth Ministerial Conference of WTO, held in Nairobi from 15 to 19 December 2015".

Programme 16
Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific

Subprogramme 2
Trade and investment

Strategy

Paragraph 67

After "technology transfer", add "on mutually agreed terms and conditions".

Paragraph 68

Delete "including the World Trade Organization Bali package and further agreements on the outstanding issues of the Doha Development Agenda".

Delete "including paperless trade systems".

After "technology transfer", add "on mutually agreed terms and conditions".